

Vanji language

The **Vanji language**, also spelt **Vanchi** and **Vanži**, is an extinct Iranian language, one of the areal group of Pamir languages. It was spoken in the Vanj River valley in what is now the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region of Tajikistan.

In the 19th century the region was forcibly annexed to the Bukharan Emirate and a campaign of violent assimilation undertaken, and by the end of the 19th century, the Vanji language had completely disappeared, displaced by Tajik Persian as a result of assimilation.

Documentation

The Russian linguist Ivan Ivanovich Zarubin was the first to assess the language in the early 20th century, by which time it was already extinct. Zarubin was able to collect only words and phrases recalled by older inhabitants of the region as having been spoken by their grandparents who still knew something of the language, and he considered it one of the Pamir languages.^[2]

Features

The language as reconstructed^[3] had a phonology consisting of the stop consonants p, b, t, d, k, g and q, the fricative consonants f, v, θ, ð, s, z, ʃ, ʒ, x, ɣ, χ, β and h, the affricate consonants tʃ and dʒ and the sonorants m, w, n, r, l, j and ŋ as well as the vowels a, e, ɛ, i, ə, o, ü and u. Much less can be discerned about the grammar of Vanji: there were probably two genders, masculine and feminine, with plurals of nouns formed by adding a suffix *-ev*, comparative forms of adjectives by adding *-tar* and Infinitives of verbs were formed by adding *-ak*.

References

- Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Old Wanji" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/oldw1238>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
 - Zarubin, I. *К спуску Памирских языков* in *Doklady Rossiiskoi Akademii Nauk*, 1924 B pp. 79-81; quoted in *Problem of Archaism and Innovation in the Eastern Iranian Languages*, Ľubomír Novák, 2013
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- Suhrobsho Davlatshoev (January 2006). "The formation and consolidation of Pamiri ethnic identity in Tajikistan" (<http://etd.lib.metu.edu.tr/upload/12607111/index.pdf>) (PDF). Master's thesis. Graduate School of Social Sciences, Middle East Technical University. Retrieved 2006-11-11.

Vanji	
Old Wanji	
Native to	Bukharan Emirate
Extinct	late 19th century
Language family	Indo-European <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indo-Iranian<ul style="list-style-type: none">Iranian<ul style="list-style-type: none">Shughni-Yazgulami<ul style="list-style-type: none">Vanji
Writing system	Unwritten
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	<i>None</i> (mis)
Glottolog	oldw1238 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/oldw1238) ^[1]

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